

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 NEA-05 ISO-00 /018 R

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

AF/EX - T. DAY

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R 021527Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: COM VEHICLE MODIFICATION

REFERENCE: TUNIS 1343, STATE 50337, TUNIS 1710 (ADDIS
NOTAL)

BEIRUT FOR RTC; ADDIS FOR RSS/RTC

1. TWENTY KITS OF LEXAN WERE ORDERED FOR SHIPMENT/STORAGE
TO NEW RTC IN ADDIS ABABA, FOR FURTHER USE WITHIN AF AREA.
WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THIS MATERIAL WILL ARRIVE SINCE LEXAN
IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND VENDORS CANNOT GIVE US ESTIMATE OF
AVAILABILITY. SY/FO HAS NO UNCOMMITTED LEXAN ON HAND AND
THEREFORE CANNOT SEND ANY TO YOUR POST.

2. WHEN COM'S 74 BUICK ELECTRA WAS BEING ARMORED BY SY/FO
SEABEES, IN WASHINGTON, IT WAS CLOSELY EXAMINED TO DETERMINE
FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING TRANSPARENT ARMORED INSERTS IN
SIDE WINDOWS. ALTHOUGH LEXAN CAN BE BRACKETED ONTO THE
WINDOWS, IT WILL NOT DEFEAT A SIGNIFICANT BALLISTIC OR
EXPLOSIVE THREAT. TRANSPARENT INSERTS WILL DEFEAT SIGNI-
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FICANT BALLISTIC THREAT ONLY IF THE BRACKETS TO WHICH THE

INSERT IS ATTACHED CAN BE ANCHORED TO THE FRAME AROUND THE WINDOW ON THE DOOR. YOUR CAR, BEING A HARD-TOP, HAS NO SUCH FRAMING, NOR A CENTER POST. THEREFORE, THE INSERTS WOULD HAVE TO BE BRACKETED TO THE DOOR GLASS, WHICH MEANS THAT ANY

SIGNIFICANT BALLISTIC OR EXPLOSIVE FORCE APPLIED TO THE GLASS/INSERT ASSEMBLY WOULD CAUSE THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY, WITH LEXAN INTACT, TO BE PROPELLED INTO THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF THE CAR. CONSIDERING THE WINDSHIELD, IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF INSERTS COULD BE INSTALLED IN SUCH A WAY TO ELIMINATE UNSAFE DISTORTION IN VIEW OF COMPLEX CURVATURE AND ANGLE OF WINDSHIELD IN COM'S HARD-TOP. WE ARE STILL EXPERIMENTING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM WITH DIFFERENT CARS. WE PREFERRED NOT TO USE YOUR COM IN THIS EXPERIMENT.

3. WHEN LEXAN BECOMES AVAILABLE TO RTC ADDIS ABABA, WE RECOMMEND RTC SEND SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO TUNIS TO ATTEMPT TO DO ONE WINDSHIELD. RUSH

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